

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 16**

**April 16, 2002**

**SUBJECT: ANALYZING RECOVERED BODY ARMOR**

**PURPOSE:** It is not uncommon for suspects to wear body armor during confrontations with police officers. Law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have experienced an increase in the use of anti-ballistic equipment by suspects. For that reason, the Department will now book and analyze anti-ballistic equipment, when it is used during the commission or attempted commission of a crime or is illegally possessed, to determine its effect on tactics and officer safety. Additionally, an evaluation of body armor worn by Department personnel will be conducted to determine its effectiveness and performance when impacted by a ballistic object or stabbing instrument. Results of the analysis may lead to changes to the Department's duty ammunition, firearms, anti-ballistic equipment, and training.

This Order establishes a procedure for the Department to catalog, analyze, and evaluate anti-ballistic equipment.

**PROCEDURE:** When anti-ballistic equipment (body armor) is used during the commission or attempted commission of a crime or is illegally possessed, it shall be booked into Department custody. Training Division shall conduct an analysis to determine if the body armor performed according to its specifications and to identify possible trends of armor used by suspects. This analysis includes body armor worn by Department personnel when impacted by a ballistic object or stabbing instrument.

**Note:** Body armor includes vests, helmets, plates, and any related anti-ballistic product.

**I. OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** An officer recovering body armor used during the commission or attempted commission of a crime, illegally possessed, or worn by Department personnel when impacted by a ballistic object or stabbing instrument shall:

- \* Complete a Property Report, Form 10.1, and include the serial number, model name or model number, threat level, manufacturer, size, color of the carrier, and whether it is a male or female design; and,
- \* Book the body armor into Department custody (4/510).

**II. PROPERTY REPORT, FORM 10.1, DISTRIBUTION - REVISED.** In addition to the current distribution procedure, when body armor is booked into Department custody as evidence, an additional copy of the completed Property Report, Form 10.1, shall be forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Training Division.

**Distribution - Booked Body Armor.**

1 - Additional copy, Commanding Officer, Training Division.

**1 - TOTAL**

**III. COMMANDING OFFICER, TRAINING DIVISION, RESPONSIBILITY.** The Commanding Officer, Training Division, shall establish a procedure for the analysis and evaluation of body armor. Upon receipt of Form 10.1 documenting the seizure or recovery of body armor, the commanding officer shall:

- \* Ensure that prior to analysis, approval is obtained from the investigating officer responsible for the body armor to avoid compromising its evidentiary value;
- \* Ensure that the results of each analysis are cataloged;
- \* Produce an annual report associated with the analysis and effectiveness of Department issued body armor and body armor used by suspects; and,
- \* When needed, ensure that training and tactics are developed for officers when confronting suspects wearing body armor.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order adds Section 4/540.21 to the Department Manual and amends Sections 2/540.01 and 5/10.01.0.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Training Group, shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

**BERNARD C. PARKS**  
Chief of Police

**DISTRIBUTION "A"**